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ADAM REED TUCKER, LEGO® CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL

At the age of 5, Adam Reed Tucker visited the Museum of Science and Industry where his aunt, a civil engineer, bought him one of his first LEGO sets at the Museum's store. His imagination and creativity were sparked, and his future was being built (though he didn't know it yet). His love of the brick continued for many years of his childhood.

Tucker studied architecture at Kansas State University, graduating in 1996. He then went on to practice as a professional architect in Chicagoland for 10 years. In 2002, he returned to his love of LEGO, one day filling multiple shopping carts with various sets and then experimenting with them as a medium for architectural art.

His work attracted the attention of The LEGO Group and in 2007, he became a LEGO® Certified Professional—one of only 14 currently in the world. In 2008, he worked with the company to conceive and design the LEGO Architecture Series. Each set contains the pieces and instructions to build a model of a famous architectural building in micro-scale.

The larger-scale models that Tucker creates for public display contain tens of thousands of LEGO pieces and take hundreds of hours to complete. He has had his work displayed at many museums and organizations around the world, including the National Building Museum, the Museum of Science and Industry, The Henry Ford and Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West.

Tucker begins the design and build process of each structure by examining photos, elevations and artist renderings. As an artist and architect, he considers design principles such as proportion, scale, form and aesthetic. His next step is to identify the LEGO bricks and colors best suited to create study models, which are mock-ups or prototypes of sections of structures. His pieces are "scratch-built," meaning that Tucker doesn't use computer modeling, pencil and paper or written directions in his work. Tucker has built and rebuilt certain sections of buildings five or six times until he feels they are right.

The simplicity and nostalgic quality of the LEGO affords a new, detailed look at the familiar buildings and structures that Tucker builds. Guests can lean in close to see the complexity of a building's intricate design and engineering—or take a step back to appreciate its sculptural form in full.

"As an architectural artist, I want to capture the essence of a particular architectural landmark into its pure sculptural form," said Tucker. "I don't view my models as literal replicas, but rather artistic interpretations through the use of LEGO bricks. As I explore how to capture these buildings with the basic shapes of the bricks and plates, I find the challenge in the endless possibilities."

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